

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. WEAT/0343

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 18, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-47 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 10-47 have been cancelled, and claims 48-81 have been added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claim 2 is objected to. The limitation of claim has been added to claim 1. Therefore, Applicant believes claim 1 and claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

§ 102

Claims 1, 4-14, 17-20, 22, 25-27, 29-40, and 42-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Brown*, U.S. Patent No. 2,572,309.

Brown discloses cementing plug. The plug is adapted to separate cement from a displacement fluid. *Brown* does not teach, show, or suggest a shearable seal member disposed in the bore of the plug, as recited in claims 67 and 73. *Brown* also does not teach, show, or suggest a valve for controlling fluid flow through the bore, as recited in claim 78. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-7, 10, 12-14, 17-18, 21-27, 29, 32, 34-40, 43, and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Church*, U.S. Patent No. 2,305,062.

Church discloses a cementing plug that is run in on pipe. *Church* does not teach, show, or suggest a shearable seal member disposed in the bore of the plug, as recited in claims 67 and 73. *Church* also does not teach, show, or suggest a valve for controlling fluid flow through the bore, as recited in claim 78. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* or *Church*.

Claim 41 has been cancelled.

Claims 15-16 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of *Rogers*, U.S. Patent No. 6,318,472.

Brown discloses cementing plug. The plug is adapted to separate cement from a displacement fluid. *Brown* does not teach, show, or suggest a shearable seal member disposed in the bore of the plug. *Rogers* discloses a hydraulic set liner hanger mechanism. The mechanism includes a pump down setting plug that is used to set the liner before the cementing operation begins and does not include any gripping members. After the liner is set, the wiper plugs are released. The setting plug of *Rogers* is not a cementing plug. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to provide the cement plug of *Brown* with the rupture disc in the setting plug of *Rogers*. The references, neither along nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest a shearable seal member disposed in the bore of the plug, as recited in claim 67. Also, the references, neither along nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest a shearable seal member disposed in the bore of the cement plug, as recited in claim 73. Further, the references, neither along nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest a valve for controlling fluid flow through the bore, as recited in claim 78. Further, the references, neither along nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest measuring a hydrostatic head and activating the gripping members in response to the measured hydrostatic head, as recited in claim 77. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

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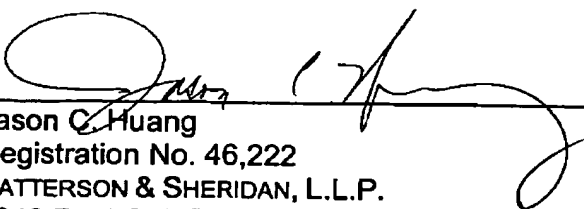
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Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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